

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02156 182335Z

70

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /068 W

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R 182253Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7557

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, UY

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARRESTS OF URUGUAYAN EXILE LEADERS IN
BUENOS AIRES

1. ON MAY 18 ASSOCIATE OF ARMISTICE INTERNATIONAL INFORMED
US OF THE ARREST OF FORMER URUGUAYAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTY OFFICIAL
GUTIERREZ RUIZ AND FORMER URUGUAYAN SENATOR ZELMAR
MICHELINI IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING OF MAY 18 IN
BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, BOTH URUGUANIANS WERE
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY INDIVIDUALS IN CIVILIAN DRESS BELIEVED
TO BE MEMBERS OF THE FUERZAS COMBINADAS. TREATMENT WAS DESCRIBED
AS CORRECT ALTHOUGH PROVOCATIVE LANGUAGE WAS ALLEGEDLY
USED (E.G. WHERE ARE THE GUNS?). MICHELINI'S ROOM IS SAID TO
HAVE BEEN RANSACKED AND HIS FILES AND TAPE RECORDER SEIZED.
ALTHOUGH HIS EYES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BANDAGED, HE
WAS NOT OTHERWISE MISTREATED.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES,
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LONDON, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEW
YORK HAVE ALL BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND
WILL MOUNT A CAMPAIGN IN THE COURSE OF TODAY, (MAY 18) TO
CONTACT SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADERS AND
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02156 182335Z

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PROTEST THE

ABOVE ARRESTS.

3. AI ASSOCIATE SPECULATED THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO ROUND UP IMPORTANT URUGUANEAN EXILES, HE POINTED OUT MICHILINI'S PARTICULAR SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EXILE COMMUNITY.
BENNETT

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